

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-05

LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-02 STR-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8891

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 4834

E.9. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CS

SUBJECT: STATUS OF BANANA NEGOTIATIONS

REF: SAN JOSE 4642

1. IT NOW APPEARS THAT THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT OF THE BANANA TAX PROGRAM BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. THE GOVERNMENT SIDE HAD TO CANCEL A NEGOTIATING SESSION WITH UNITED BRANDS SCHEDULED FOR EARLY DECEMBER BECAUSE THE MINISTERS INVOLVED WERE SENT TO CARACAS TO MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PUERTO ORDAZ MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ. AFTER THEIR RETURN, THEY WERE ONLY IN SAN JOSE A FEW DAYS BEFORE DEPARTING WITH PRESIDENT ODUBER FOR PUERTO ORDAZ. COMPANIA BANANERA (UNITED BRANDS) MANAGER CARLOS ROESCH DOUBTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOW ATTEMPT TO HOLD A NEGOTIATING SESSION WITH THE COMPANY UNTIL AFTER THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.

2. ROESCH SAYS THT IN EARLY JANUARY, ENRIQUE LOPEZ-BALBOA, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION FOR

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UNITED BRANDS AND WHO HAS BEEN A PRINCIPAL FIGURE IN BANANA
TAX NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE COMPANY, WILL MOVE HIS HEADQUARTERS
FROM BOSTON TO SAN JOSE WHERE HE WILL BE CLOSER TO THE
PRODUCTION UNITS HE SUPERVISES IN CENTRAL AMERICA. PRE-
SUMABLY HE WILL TAKE THE LEAD IN TAX NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE
COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT WHEN THEY RESUME IN JANUARY.
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Message Attributes

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